

Howard Diamond

From: Howard Diamond
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 7:13 AM
To: Craig McLean - NOAA Federal
Cc: David Herring
Subject: Re: Hurricane Dorian and Exceptional Service

Hi Craig,

I really appreciate the thoughts and sentiments in your e-mail; it is clear that you get it, and getting something from your senior management level level also shows that you truly care about the troops, and again, I really appreciate it. I am sorry to write you directly on this, but I thought that you should know about what I experienced over the weekend with respect to this issue.

I answer questions via the NOAA Climate Portal site via the a number of email addresses, including [<climate-portal@noaa.gov>](mailto:climate-portal@noaa.gov), and over the weekend I fielded six messages as I have pasted in below. I addressed them in a very polite and professional manner basically telling them that they reached the wrong address in NOAA, and directing them to the NOAA Comms folks downtown where the original message came from (I can send you an example if you want). I am sending these to you, because you should know that when the folks downtown do what they did, that it throws shade over all of NOAA. While the e-mail address they used was clearly the climate-portal, people were angry and all they saw was NOAA in the address.

I just thought that you might want to have some of this background information as you pursue this issue with respect to the Scientific Integrity Policy. It is challenging enough to deal with climate deniers, but overlaying this on top of it makes things difficult, although I will say that fielding contentious climate questions, did prepare me for fielding the questions below. Our integrity as a science agency is priceless, and so that unsigned press release from "NOAA" hurts all of us - so when the next storm comes by (and it will), will we be believed? By the way, three of the people who sent in their complaints sent me messages back indicating that they were appreciative of me clarifying things for them. Given that David Herring oversees the NOAA Climate Portal, I am also cc'ing him on this message for his awareness.

Regards.

Howard Diamond

Texts of six e-mail messages sent to [<climate-portal@noaa.gov>](mailto:climate-portal@noaa.gov) over the weekend of Sep 7-8, 2019

(1) Shame on you for bending to justify Donald Trump's stupidity and ignorance. Absolutely pathetic.

(2) In the light of the recent events surrounding Hurricane Dorian and it's "impact" on Alabama it has become obvious that your organization is no longer credible. So terribly disturbing that a supposedly science based entity has succumbed to the dictates of an egotistical madman. So sad that you cower in fear and do not stand up for what you know is the truth ,but rather bow and lick the boots of a power mad lunatic. Everything Trump touches is debased and destroyed. Congratulations on being yet another victim. Too bad no-one has the spine to raise their voices against him. Too bad that you have lost any credibility in your rush to be beholden to a demagogue.

(3) I just saw the news that NOAA vindicated Trump's stupid nonsense about Hurricane Dorian threatening Alabama. On top of it he committed a crime by altering one of your maps with a sharpie! You people should stay out of this nonsense. It's a disgrace.

(4) Why did you allow Mr. Bully to sway you? I have less respect for this organization now, and wonder what you care about the most, pleasing the president or giving accurate information to Americans.

(5) Dear NOAA Director and Management:

It to me is unbelievable how you would throw the National Weather Service under the bus but then further the conversation about the President's dumb prediction about Alabama!

The FACT is the President does NOT nor anyone should make predictions outside of the predicted cone. The FACT is the President, AT THE TIME HE SPOKE, was using inaccurate, old data which was the real pathetic issue! The FACT is while focused on wrong info and trying to prove why he could have been right, Dorian was skirting the coast with possible major damage around other states far away. Did any of the above need your comments or thoughts???? NO!

SO WHY would you get involved in a debate days later when it should have been a dead issue, also at time Dorian was making landfall??? WHY would you folks again do a great job with the forecast for another hurricane and then get involved in politics and take away ALL credibility of your agency?

What an absolute dumb move and I can assure you the Country is saying WHAT THE HELL IS NOAA doing across the nation after backing the garbage, inaccurate Alabama talk by a dumbass President.

NOAA, the nation owes a big thanks for your Dorian prediction with YOUR TRUE CONES OF UNCERTAINTY (thank you) but you owe the NWS and Country an apology, clarification that your comment made no sense and was not your place to comment on.

(6) Pathetic. And you know exactly what I'm referring to. Better to resign than violate yourselves with North Korean style state lies.

On 9/9/2019 12:55 AM, Craig McLean - NOAA Federal wrote:

Dear Colleagues,

The fierce storm we know as Hurricane Dorian has concluded its ferocious path through the Bahamas and along the US East Coast. Many of you have contributed to the excellent science that has underpinned the forecasts and current understanding of storms such as this one, which accelerated quite rapidly in intensity. The storm also presented challenges in track which improved with enhanced observations. We know that our collective work, from the scientists in the aircraft penetrating the storm, to the scientists deploying the glider picket line, to the modelers and folks working the physics of the storms, across OAR and in our CI's, and across all NOAA Lines, we are working the problem in order to give the NWS forecasters the best tools we possibly can to keep America and our neighbors safe. Thank you.

During the course of the storm, as I am sure you are aware, there were routine and exceptional

expert forecasts, the best possible, issued by the NWS Forecasters. These are remarkable colleagues of ours, who receive our products, use them well, and provide the benefit of their own experience in announcing accurate forecasts accompanied by the distinction of all credible scientists -- they sign their work. As I'm sure you also know, there was a complex issue involving the President commenting on the path of the hurricane. The NWS Forecaster(s) corrected any public misunderstanding in an expert and timely way, as they should. There followed, last Friday, an unsigned press release from "NOAA" that inappropriately and incorrectly contradicted the NWS forecaster. My understanding is that this intervention to contradict the forecaster was not based on science but on external factors including reputation and appearance, or simply put, political. Our NOAA Scientific Integrity Policy and Code of Scientific Conduct make clear that all NOAA employees shall approach all scientific activities with honesty, objectively, and completely, without allegiance to individuals, organizations, or ideology. The content of this press release is very concerning as it compromises the ability of NOAA to convey life-saving information necessary to avoid substantial and specific danger to public health and safety. If the public cannot trust our information, or we debase our forecaster's warnings and products, that specific danger arises.

You know that the value of our science is in the complexity of our understanding, our ability to convey that understanding to a wide audience of users of this information, and to establish and sustain the public trust in the truth and legitimacy of that information. Unfortunately, the press release of last Friday violated this trust and violated NOAA's policies of scientific integrity. In my role as Assistant Administrator for Research, and as I continue to administratively serve as Acting Chief Scientist, I am pursuing the potential violations of our NOAA Administrative Order on Scientific Integrity. Thankfully, we have such policies that are independently cited as among the best in the federal community, if not the best. Your NOAA and OAR management and leadership team believes in these policies and principles. I have a responsibility to pursue these truths. I will.

Thank you for your continued excellent work, and your trust. Carry on.

Craig

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